Lead Safe Home Summit
Friday, June 21, 2019

Environmental Health Watch
Cleveland Department of Public Health

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Our mission is to create healthy homes and sustainable communities by identifying and removing hazards, educating and inspiring people, and advancing equitable, environmental solutions.

We envision a future where all children, families, and individuals are living in healthy homes and sustainable communities.
For 35 years, EHW has been a unique and vital resource for Greater Cleveland. The “go-to” group for organizations that want to educate and engage neighborhoods about environmental health and environmental justice issues.

We provide prevention based services:
• direct service to low-income families, program research and policy development
• advocacy and critical leadership to influence policy makers and help the public address critical health concerns in our urban environment.
• in-home assessment of environmental health hazards and remediation application.
• healthy homes training and certification
Blueprint for a Healthy House Conference 1991

‘A Blueprint for a Healthy House’ brought together health and housing agencies with advocates to examine common issues. The healthy homes model grew expeditiously. HUD adopted it as the blueprint for their newly created Office on Healthy Homes and has created a series of healthy-house grants.
Collaboration, Research and Grassroots

- Cleveland Lead Hazard Control
- Window Replacement 12 years later
- Roach Allergen Reduction-IPM
- Urban mold & moisture
- Tenants for Healthy Housing
- Deep, Green and Healthy

- City-County Healthy House Project
- Lead Poisoning Prevention Research Project
- Case Healthy Homes & Patients
- Warm and Healthy Project
- Asthma Home Visit MCO Pilot Study
- Soil Interim Control Remediation Study

To access studies-ehw.org/resources
Our Approach

Since 1980......

• EHW has engaged and convened concerned citizens and representatives regarding important and evolving environmental justice issues

• We has partnered with numerous academic researchers throughout its history to further its understanding of environmental needs and develop new approaches to evolving environmental challenges.

• EHW has also worked together with local, county and state policy makers to address critical health concerns, develop pilot, demonstration and research projects.

• Environmental Health Watch continues to influence policies to best serve children and families.
The Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition

A inclusive public-private partnership committed to making Cleveland lead safe in 10 years

We believe that no child should ever be poisoned by lead
Lead Poisoning 101
2016 Cuyahoga County EBL >5 ug/dl by census tract
Childhood Lead Poisoning

• Lead poisoning is a common and preventable childhood health problem

• Lead is everywhere in the environment
Environmental Sources of Childhood Lead Exposure
What Is Lead Poisoning?

• Lead poisoning happens when lead gets into the body from \textbf{breathing, eating, or drinking}.

• Lead exposure is measured in children by \textbf{blood lead testing}.
Lead Hazard Sources

• Most lead hazards come from lead paint chips that have been ground into tiny bits.

• These tiny bits of lead become part of the dust and soil in and around our homes.
Risk Factors for Elevated BLLs

• Living in older homes

• Presence of lead hazards

• Cultural practices and traditional medicines

• Lack of awareness about the dangers of lead

• Compromised nutritional status
Who Gets Lead Poisoning?

• Lead is toxic to everyone, but **unborn babies** and young **children < 6 years of age** are at greatest risk for health problems from lead poisoning.

• **Young children absorb lead more easily** than older kids and adults, and lead is more harmful to them.
Why are Children at High Risk?

- Children’s nervous systems are still developing
- Young children have more hand-to-mouth activity than older children
- Children absorb more lead than adults
Children’s Health Risks
Related to lead exposure

• Reductions in IQ and attention span

• Behavioral problems (e.g., hyperactivity)

• Impaired growth and hearing loss

• At very high levels, seizures, coma, and even death
How Do Children Get Lead Poisoning?

When children come into contact with:

- **Deteriorated painted surfaces** (like windows, porches, steps and walls)
- **Bare soil & Dust** contaminated with lead-based paint
- **Toys, jewelry, hobby, and other objects** (like stained glass, plaster, fishing supplies, and glazed pottery)
- **Home remedies**, such as greta and azarcon (used to treat an upset stomach)
How Is Lead Poisoning Diagnosed?

A simple **blood test** can diagnose lead poisoning.

- Doctors get the blood by pricking the finger or putting a small needle into a vein.
What Are the Signs & Symptoms of Lead Poisoning?

Some children have no signs of being sick. Others may have symptoms like:

- Headaches
- Behavioral problems
- Trouble concentrating
- Loss of appetite
- Weight loss
- Nausea and vomiting
- Constipation
- Feeling tired
- Muscle/joint weakness
- Looking pale
How Is Lead Poisoning Treated?

• The most important part of treatment is preventing more exposure to lead.

• Children with extremely high lead levels in their blood will be hospitalized to get a medicine called a chelator.

• Calcium, iron, and vitamin C are important parts of a healthy diet and also help to decrease the amount of lead the body absorbs.
How Can We Protect Our Family?

To help protect children from lead poisoning:

• Keep your home lead-safe hire professional.
• Ask your doctor about having your child tested for lead exposure. If a child has lead poisoning, all siblings should be tested.
• Learn how to safely repair and repaint chipping, cracking or peeling painted surfaces in old homes built before 1978.
How Can We Protect Our Family?

To help protect children from lead poisoning:

• Let cold water run for 30 seconds before drinking it or using it to make food
• Don't use hot tap water for meals or drink
• Wash your child's hands and toys often
• Regularly clean surfaces by wet wiping or mopping
• Don’t allow your child (or pet) to play in bare soil areas
BUILD is a national award program focused on promoting collaborative, upstream approaches to community health and health equity.
Housing Health
Journey Mapping Process

Fac: DigitalC
Glenville 2

- Lived at home w/ family needed to move out once g-ma passed
- Craig’s prefer CLE
- Looked at lots of places all over
- Good vibe from landlord lived there, wife
- Sick of looking
- Just driving home from work
- Drinking around calling centers
- Sick of looking
- $700 budget, not as nice as current – can’t justify spending more for less
- People let her know about possible homes
- Haven’t looked at places due to price
- Friend lived upstairs coworker – not a good idea
- Found perfect place
- Started to get in mood to look again, it took a bit

Drugs, weird, scary house
Bad vibe from landlords
Needed to be big enough for crystal and china
$600/mo
Location W. 65 – can’t be past
Suburb taxes issue
Family live in-kids neighbors
Nephew knew other places
School loan/ car note not over $600, now $685
Landlord moved, male moved in, creepy, been in 5 years
Male w/ dog above, pets= more 5, Perfect area – but landlord MIA
Wants to be in CLE – Rent > Buy b/c of responsibilities
Craigs list – Zillow Looking landlords Facebook

Amenities 2 bds, china + crystal driveway nice, kitchen, gas stove
Journey Mapping Findings

What they want to know
- Quality of the landlord
- Prior issues with the landlord (eviction history; unpaid bills; housing court etc.)
- Quality of the housing stock
- More accurate understanding of the housing layout
- Affordability/Cost

What they didn’t ask about
- Schools
- Transportation
- Health

We will include
- Information for tenants, landlords and homeowners about lead and healthy homes
- Links to resources
- Possible suggestions based on feedback today
Looking Ahead to the Next 3 Months

- Review feedback from Lead Safe Home Summit
- Draft user-friendly language and health messaging to go along with the tool/application
- Re-engage community & share updated draft Housing.Health app and discussion
- Utilize partners, service providers and LSCC to integrate tool and provide support to families looking for housing.
Experts From The Field
Irene Irizarry
Q&A
Primary Prevention Approach from CDPH

• **City of Cleveland Resources**
  - Building and Housing Rental Registry Program
  - Contact Building and Housing for more information

• **Lead Hazard Control Grant Program**
  - Priority given to children with high lead levels above 10 UG/DL
  - All are welcome to apply

• CDPH **collaborates** with multi-sector partners across the City, County and State

• **Each One Teach One** is a primary prevention approach- please spread the word
Working with the Public

- **Role of CDPH as a regulatory agency**
  - More details about investigations in afternoon session

- **Navigating through the compliance process**
  - Why an order is issued by CDPH
  - Meeting people where they are
  - Building trust

- **Creating Lead Safe Homes is the ultimate goal**
  - Controlling lead paint hazards
  - Mitigating leaded dust
  - Treating contaminated soil
Lessons Learned and Stories from the Field

• What led me to this work, what gives me joy
• Wow stories from impacted residents
• Personal attention/ assisting the public
Q&A
Thank You For Listening!

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